Antarctic Territories, Australian Antarctic Territories, British Antarctic Territories)

Note: The above lists may be amended subsequently to take account of changes in the international status of countries or territories

List of least-developed developing countries

Sudan	Ethiopia	Nepal
Mauritania	Djibouti	Bhutan
Mali	Somalia	Burma (Myanmar)
Burkina Faso	Uganda	Laos
Niger	Tanzania	Tuvalu
Chad	Mozambique	Kiribati
Republic of Cape Verde	Comoros	Tonga
Gambia	Malawi	Western Samoa
Guinea Bissau	Botswana	Mongolia
Guinea	Lesotho	
Sierra Leone	Haiti	
Togo	Yemen	
Benin	Afghanistan	
Central African-Republic	Bangladesh	
Equatorial Guinea	Maldives	
Sao Tome and Principe		
Rwanda		
Burundi		
Ethiopia		

Production of tea by tea gardens in West Bengal Under T.T.C.I.

3354. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1009 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd December, 1991 and state the production of tea from each of the garden under West Bengal Tea Trading Corporation of India during the last five years together with the average price per Kg.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The production and average price per kg. of the four tea gardens in West Bengal under Tea Trading Corporation of India during the last five years are as follows:

Tea Estate	Year	Prod. (in Kgs.)	Average Price (Rs./ Kg.)
Looksan	1986-87	451320	19.68
	1987-88	547737	18.95
	1988-89	486013	21.88
	1989-90	521335	36.48
	1990-91	506429	37.23
Pashok	1986-87	113077	36.84
	1987-88	136914	32.32
	1988-89	135449	37.98
	1989-90	141277	50.56
	1990-91	139181	52.79
Vaha-Tukvar	1986-87	108328	38.50
	1987-88	103024	37.82
	1988-89	99306	36.47
	1989-90	102362	53.83
	1990-91	104908	55.31
Potong	1986-87	73979	27.07
	1987-88	80208	25.70
	1988-89	84940	24.55
	1989-90	79231	49.16
	1990-91	78153	46.00

Share of agricultural products and minerals in exports

3355. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the presen* trend of export indicate that the country is exporting more agricultural products and minerals as compared to engineering goods;

(b) if so, what is the break-up of exports during the last six months; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reverse this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The foreign trade data is compiled on a financial year basis. The break-up of exports during April-

December 1991, the period for which the data is currently available, is given below:

Commodity Group	April-December 1991 (Rs. Crores)
1. Plantations	1041
2. Agricultural & allied products	3059
3. Marine Products	989
4. Ores & Minerals	1640
5. Leather & manufactures	2237
6. Gems & Jewellery	4739
7. Sports goods	70
8. Chemicals & related products	3291
9. Engineering goods	3260
10. Electronics & computer software	393
11. Textiles	7298
12. Handicrafts	428
13. Carpets	865
14. Petroleum Products	645
15. Unclassified	377
	Total: 30332

As may be seen from above, the export of Agricultural & allied products, ores and minerals, and Engineering goods amounted to Rs. 3059 crores, Rs. 1640 crores and Rs. 3260 crores respectively. However, it needs to be mentioned that the primary products (Plantations, Agriculture and Ores and Minerals) accounted for about 19% of our total exports while manufactures accounted for 81% of our total exports.

(c) Several changes in trade policy were introduced in July/August, 1991, aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and optimal import compression. Barring essential imports of sensitive items like POL, fertilizers etc., all other imports of raw materials and components were linked to export performance. REP licences were replaced by Exim Scrips. The advance licences as an instrument of export promotion has been strengthened, by reducing discretionary controls and delays. The procedure'for import of capital goods has been strengthened. The EPZ and 100% EOU Schemes have been re-vamped. A number of export and import items have been decanalised. Exporters have been allowed to open foreign currency accounts in approved banks and to raise external credits, pay for export related imports from such accounts and credit export proceeds to such accounts. These steps have been further strengthened by the partial convertibility of Rupee and reduction in import tariff ratqs. Besides, the Government has taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activisation of Board of Trade, bilaterial discussions with select countries, interaction with national organisations of Trade and Industry, etc.

Reduction in cost of curing of tobacco

3356. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, it is a fact that the cost of curing of tobacco accounts for 30 per cent of total cost of its production;

(b) if so, whether any efforts are being made to find an alternative fuel to reduce the cost of curing: and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry, tried solar energy as an alternative fuel but found it uneconomical as initial investment on barn is high and during night one has to depend on coal or wood. The Institute also designed a low-profile barn which saves fuel by about 25%. Such low-profile bam is already popular in some areas. The Institute has also conducted some trials on barns with insulated roofs but these are at an experimental stage.